

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A battery comprising:

an electrode assembly comprising a positive electrode plate, and a negative electrode plate[[,]] and a separator wound or laminated together, core materials of the positive and negative electrode plates being bared at ends of the electrode assembly respectively at either end;

a cylindrical outer case having a bottom ~~being~~ connected to ~~either~~ an end face of the electrode assembly to serve as a battery terminal;

electrolyte ~~being~~ impregnated in the electrode assembly; and

a lid connected to ~~the other~~ another end face of the electrode assembly and attached to the outer case with a sealer and an insulator interposed therebetween,

wherein the lid includes a connecting part in one piece therewith that engages with and connects a bottom part of ~~the~~ an outer case of another battery to be connected, a hole configured to receive the electrolyte into the battery, and a safety structure that releases gas in response to a build-up of internal pressure.

2. (Currently Amended) A battery comprising:

an electrode assembly comprising a positive electrode plate, and a negative electrode plate[[,]] and a separator wound or laminated together, core materials of the

positive and negative electrode plates being bared at ends of the electrode assembly  
respectively at either end;

a cylindrical outer case having a bottom ~~being~~ connected to ~~either~~ an end face of  
the electrode assembly to serve as a battery terminal;

electrolyte impregnated in the electrode assembly; and

a lid connected to ~~the other~~ another end face of the electrode assembly and  
attached to the outer case with a sealer and an insulator interposed therebetween,

wherein the lid includes a hole configured to receive the electrolyte into the  
battery and a safety structure that releases gas in response to an increase in internal  
pressure, and ~~that~~ the lid is welded to the bared portion of the core material of one of the  
electrode plates of the electrode assembly to serve as a first current collector plate.

3. (Previously Presented) The battery according to claim 1, wherein the lid is  
welded to the bared portion of the core material of one of the electrode plates of the  
electrode assembly to serve as a current collector plate.

4. (Previously Presented) The battery according to claim 2, wherein the lid is  
provided with a projection protruding to the inside of the outer case, and is welded to the  
bared portion of the core material of the electrode plate of the electrode assembly with the  
projection making tight contact therewith.

5. (Currently Amended) The battery according to claim 1, wherein the outer case  
and the lid are joined together by a fixing groove formed by swaging the outer case, with

~~a gasket interposed between an open end of the outer case and a cylindrical portion of the lid a crimp at the open end of the outer case and a cylindrical portion continuous with the outer periphery of the lid with a gasket interposed therebetween.~~

6. (Previously Presented) The battery according to claim 1, wherein the safety structure comprises a continuous or discontinuous cut in the lid.

7. (Currently Amended) The battery according to claim 1, wherein a current collector plate is welded to the bared portion of the core material of one of the electrode plates of the electrode assembly, and after placing the electrode assembly [[is]] in the outer case, the current collector plate is welded to the bottom of the outer case.

8. (Currently Amended) The battery according to claim 1, wherein the outer case is provided with an inwardly protruding projection, which is welded to the bared portion of the core material of one of the electrode plate plates of the electrode assembly in the outer case in tight contact therewith.

9. (Currently Amended) The battery according to claim 1, wherein the lid comprises a clad plate comprising a plurality of plate materials, wherein one of the plate materials which faces the outer case is resistant to the electrolyte consisting of a plate material that is resistant to the electrolyte on a side facing the outer case and a plate material that is a same material or a similar material to the material of the outer case on the other side.

10. (Previously Presented) A battery pack of a plurality of the batteries according to claim 1, the bottom of the outer case of one battery being fitted into the connecting part of the lid of the other battery and their mating parts being welded together.

11. (Previously Presented) The battery according to claim 3, wherein the lid is provided with a projection protruding to the inside of the outer case, and is welded to the bared portion of the core material of the electrode plate of the electrode assembly with the projection making tight contact therewith.

12. (Currently Amended) The battery according to claim 2, wherein the outer case and the lid are joined together by a fixing groove formed by swaging the outer case, with a gasket interposed between an open end of the outer case and a cylindrical portion of the lid ~~a crimp at the open end of the outer case and a cylindrical portion continuous with the outer periphery of the lid with a gasket interposed therebetween.~~

13. (Previously Presented) The battery according to claim 2, wherein the safety structure comprises a continuous or discontinuous cut in the lid.

14. (Currently Amended) The battery according to claim 2, wherein a second current collector plate is welded to the bared portion of the core material of one of the electrode plates of the electrode assembly, and after placing the electrode assembly ~~[[is]]~~ in the outer case, the second current collector plate is welded to the bottom of the outer case.

15. (Currently Amended) The battery according to claim 2, wherein the outer case is provided with an inwardly protruding projection, which is welded to the bared portion of the core material of one of the electrode plate plates of the electrode assembly in the outer case in tight contact therewith.

16. (Currently Amended) The battery according to claim 2, wherein the lid is formed of a clad plate comprising a plurality of plate materials, wherein one of the plate materials which faces the outer case is resistant to the electrolyte consisting of a plate material that is resistant to the electrolyte on a side facing the outer case and a plate material that is a same material or a similar material to the material of the outer case on the other side.

17. (Previously Presented) A battery pack of a plurality of the batteries according to claim 3, the bottom of the outer case of one battery being fitted into the connecting part of the lid of the other battery and their mating parts being welded together.

18. (New) The battery according to claim 1, wherein the lid comprises a cylindrical portion, integrally formed in the lid, which is shaped to receive and connect to a bottom of another battery.

19. (New) The battery according to claim 2, wherein the lid comprises a cylindrical portion, integrally formed in the lid, which is shaped to receive and connect to a bottom of another battery.